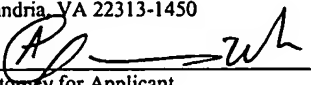
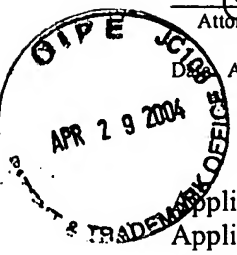


I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited in the United States
Postal Services as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Attorney for Applicant

Date: April 27, 2004


Application No. : 10/804,699
Applicant : Tim J. Bales
Filed : 19 March 2004
TC/A.U. : Not Yet Assigned
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No. : DB001094-000
Customer No. : 24122

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

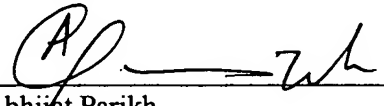
TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned application, please find the following:

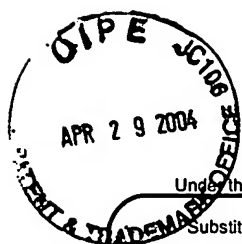
- An Information Disclosure Statement; and
- Form PTO/SB/08A.

Also enclosed is a return postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of the above-reference correspondence. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


Abhijit Parikh
Reg. No. 49,086
Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street, 14th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425
Tel.: 412/394-2478
Fax: 412/394-2555
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: April 27, 2004



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/804,699
Filing Date	March 19, 2004
First Named Inventor	Bales, Tim J.
Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	DB001094-000

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 6,577,154 B2	06-10-2003	Fifield et al.	
		US- 6,509,765 B1	01-21-2003	Drost	
		US- 6,504,397 B1	01-07-2003	Hart et al.	
		US- 6,470,054 B1	10-22-2002	Boudry et al.	
		US- 6,181,170 B1	01-30-2001	Koifman	
		US- 6,137,273	10-24-2000	Bales et al.	
		US- 5,396,028	03-07-1995	Tomassetti	
		US- 2003/0062920 A	04-03-2003	Radhakrishnan	
		US- 2002/0180479 A1	12-05-2002	Chang	
		US- 2002/0089351 A1	07-11-2002	Stockstad	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited in the United States
Postal Services as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attorney for Applicant

Date: April 27, 2004

Application No. : 10/804,699
Applicant : Tim J. Bales
Filed : 19 March 2004
TC/A.U. : Not Yet Assigned
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No. : DB001094-000
Customer No. : 24122

To: Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Information Disclosure Statement

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is:

☒ Form PTO/SB/08A

☐ Form PTO/SB/08B

listing references for consideration by the Examiner. Attached is a Search Report from the United Kingdom Patent Office which may be material to the examination of the application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is "prior art" to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against applicant(s) interest in any manner.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c);
AND either

☐ The fee set forth in §1.17(p) is attached; OR

Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e) that:

☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR

☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement;

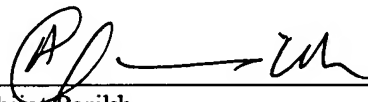
OR

- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d); the fee set forth in §1.17(p) is attached,
AND
- ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR
- ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be considered by the Examiner, and that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of these references by initialing and returning a copy of the attached form(s) with the next Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4-27-2004


Abhijit Parikh
Reg. No. 49,086
Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
One Oxford Centre, 14th Floor
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425
Tel.: 412/394-2478
Fax: 412/394-2555